Francophone Community Profile of Alberta

FÉDÉRATION DES COMMUNAUTÉS FRANCOPHONES ET ACADIENNE du Canada

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Statistical Portrait: Anne Gilbert, University of Ottawa/L'ANALYSTE (for the first edition); William Floch and Elias Abou-Rjeili, Official Languages Support Program, Canadian Heritage (3rd edition)

Community Life: Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA)

Coordination : Micheline Doiron (first edition), Robin Cantin, (2nd edition), Serge Quinty (3rd édition)

Production support: Christiane Langlois and Micheline Lévesque

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Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes — Québec

La Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada
450 Rideau St., suite 300
Ottawa, ON K1N 5Z4

Phone: (613) 241-7600
Fax: (613) 241-6046
Email: info@fcfa.ca
Website: www.fcfa.ca

This collection is available online at
www.fcfa.ca/profils

Cover page pictures: Image on the left – Child proudly holding the Franco-Albertan flag, March 2009, photo by Gladys Dumont (ACFA)
Image on the right – Guinean artist Doura Barry mingles with the crowd, photo by Le Franco

Foreword

This profile compiles and presents updated information on the Francophone community of Alberta. It is part of a collection of profiles of Francophone and Acadian communities in Canada published for the first time in 2000 by the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne (FCFA) du Canada* and updated in 2004 and 2009.

These provincial and territorial profiles are supplemented by a national profile, which describes the overall situation of Canada's Francophones and examines the status of French in Canada. Following a general introduction to the history and geography of each community, the profile is presented in two sections:

- A statistical portrait describing the vitality of French-speaking communities from various points of view (demography, language, diversity and economy).
- A presentation of community life organized around six themes: major organizations, communications, cultural and community life, education and training, health and social services, legislation and government services.

This updated edition adds data from the 2006 census.

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ACELF
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE D'ÉDUCATION DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

The *Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française (ACELF)* offers a series of 24 educational activities to accompany use of the *Profiles of the Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada* in the classroom. These activities are accessible free of charge on ACELF's Banque d'activités pédagogiques (BAP) at www.acelf.ca/bap.

History

Grande Cache, Miette, Lac La Biche: at the time of the voyageurs, the vast spaces west of the Great Lakes were for the most part given French place names. French also predominated at Fort Edmonton, constructed in 1795 by the Hudson's Bay Company. A century later, a great wave of mi$_g$ration brought settlers of many origins to Alberta, seeking fertile land and prosperity in the West. French then became a secondary language. In 1892, when the Legislative Assembly made English the only language of debate and instruction, local priests undertook a vast recruitment campaign in Quebec and New England. This helped to swell the ranks of the original Francophone settlements in the province, and gave birth to new settlements in the northern regions.

A network of French schools developed with the Church's help. Nevertheless, at the same time, the government required that all compulsory school subjects be taught in English. The *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* (ACFA), created in 1926 and supported by *La Survivance* (1928), took on the dual task of providing bilingual teachers for the French schools and ensuring the effective teaching of their mother tongue. The cooperative movement in Alberta owes its growth to these two institutions.

Protected by linguistic arrangements made when the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were created in 1905, public Catholic education in French continued up until the 1930s. It was not until 1964 that an amendment to the *Schools Act* permitted teaching in French for an hour per day. Franco-Albertans gained control over their schools in 1993. The government of Alberta established a Francophone Affairs secretariat in 1999.

ACFA operates today through a network of twelve regional and two local cercles. Through the years, it has also created several provincial organizations active in specific sectors. As the centre of communication, information and political action for Francophones in the province, the association wants to address the following issues in the coming years:

- Create stronger ties with its regional member associations;
- Contribute to a better integration of youth and French-speaking immigrants to the community;
- Enhance the status of Alberta's Francophonie in the province through the development of a policy on French-language services;
- Develop a global communications plan for Alberta's Francophonie.

Team Alberta during the Jeux de la francophonie canadienne, *Edmonton 2008. Photo by: Sébastien Guillier Sahuqué*

Geography

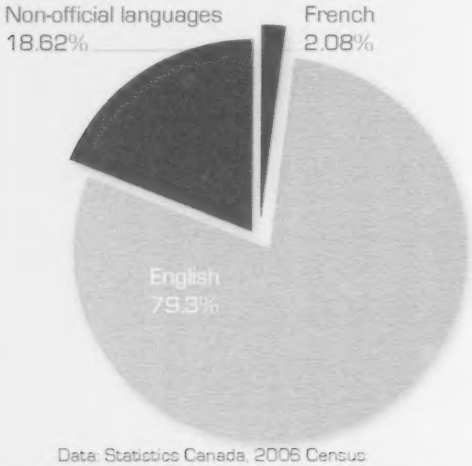
In 2006, the Franco-Albertan community included 68,435 people with French as their mother tongue. However, if one looks at people who have French as their daily language of use but not necessarily as their mother tongue, the community totals 66,995 Francophones representing 2.05 percent of the total population of the province.

Franco-Albertans are found in all areas of the province. They are most populous around Calgary and Edmonton, attracted by the job opportunities and the varied services in an urban setting. More than half of the Franco-Albertan population lives in these cities and their surrounding areas: south of Edmonton, in the town of Beaumont, and to the north, in the towns of Saint Albert, Morinville and Legal. In Edmonton itself, the Bonnie Doon neighbourhood, home to many Francophone institutions, claims the title of French Quarter.

Significant concentrations of Francophones are found in Rivière la Paix, Bonnyville, Saint Paul, Plamondon and Lac La Biche. These northeastern and northwestern regions of the province have the highest percentage of Francophones: close to 8 percent in Census Division no. 12 (Bonnyville, Saint-Paul, Cold Lake). Francophones are a majority in the Falher region, particularly in the town of Falher itself and in the town of Girouxville.

Demographic Vitality

Population by Mother Tongue, 2006, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Note: Some people declared having more than one mother tongue. As a result, the total of the categories exceeds provincial population.

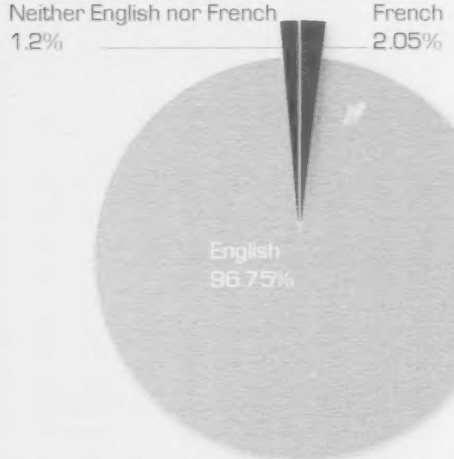
The French language

Of the province's 3,256,355 inhabitants, a bit more than 645,000 do not have English as a mother tongue – a significant increase from 2001, when they numbered about 530,000.

Francophones account for 2.08 percent of the total population, and the province has over 580,000 Albertans with a mother tongue other than English or French.

French	68,435
English	2,610,280
Non-official languages	613,055
Total population	**3,256,355**

Population by First Official Language Spoken, 2006, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

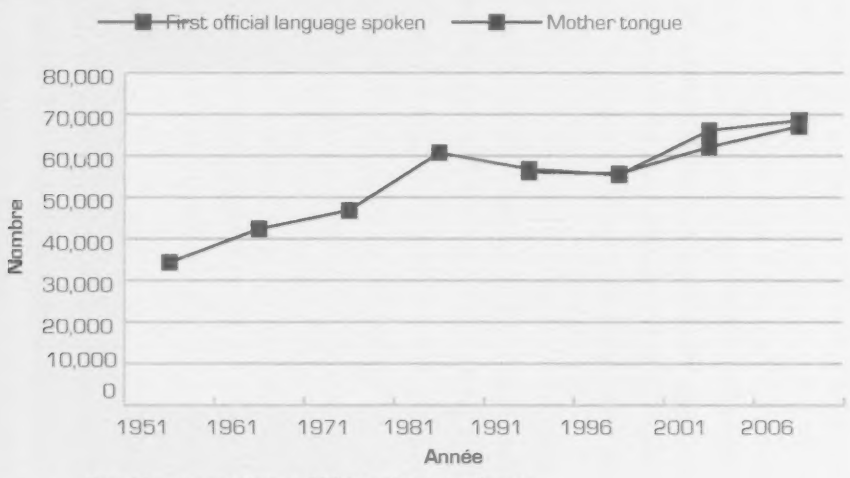
Note: Some people have more than one first official language spoken. As a result, the total of the categories exceeds provincial population.

French	66,995
English	3,158,395
Neither English nor French	39,185

A recent increase in population...

The number of people with French as their mother tongue has grown from 56,730 in 1991 to 68,435 in 2006, while the population with French as their first official language spoken – which includes most people with French as their daily language of use but another mother tongue – grew by some 11,000 individuals during the same period. This strong increase is due of course to the spectacular growth of the province's economy in the past few years.

French as Mother Tongue and French First Official Language Spoken, 1951-2006, Alberta



Data: Marmen and Corbeil, 2004 and Statistics Canada

*The first official language spoken variable did not exist prior to 1991

... and the percentages are stable

The percentage of Francophones in Alberta fell from 3.6 percent in 1951 to 2.3 percent in 1991, but since then it has stabilized and has remained virtually unchanged for the last 15 years. Francophones currently account for 2.08 percent of the population.

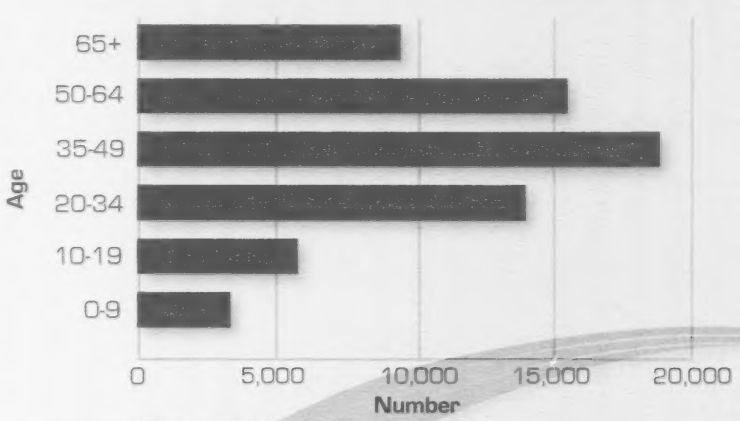
Historically concentrated in the north of the province, Franco-Albertans continue to represent a larger percentage of the population there than elsewhere.

A mostly adult population

The median age for Francophones is significantly higher than for the general population: 44 years, compared to 36.

The Francophone community in Alberta is not growing at the same rate as other population groups in the province. Nevertheless, a larger percentage of Francophones are of working age, and able to participate actively in the social and economic life of the province.

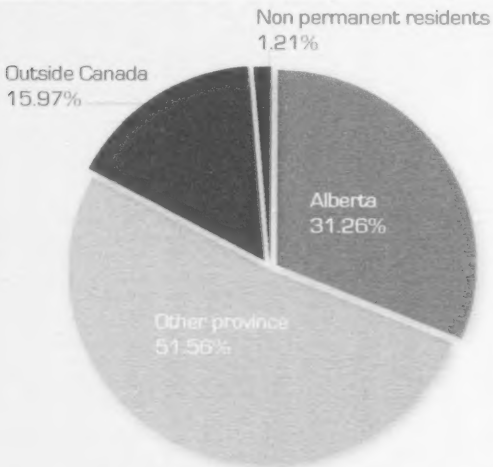
Age Distribution, 2006, Francophones, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Francophone Diversity

Place of Birth, 2006, Francophones, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Diverse roots

Three out of ten Franco-Albertans were born in Alberta. People who were born elsewhere in Canada make up the majority of the Francophone population. Consequently, Franco-Albertans have roots across the country and have developed close relationships with French-speaking communities in other provinces.

Close to 16 percent of Franco-Albertans were born outside the country, which adds to the diversity of the Francophone population of the province. Forty percent of them came from Europe, but Africa is making inroads in the province – 2,880 French-speaking immigrants are from this continent.

A more diverse Francophonie

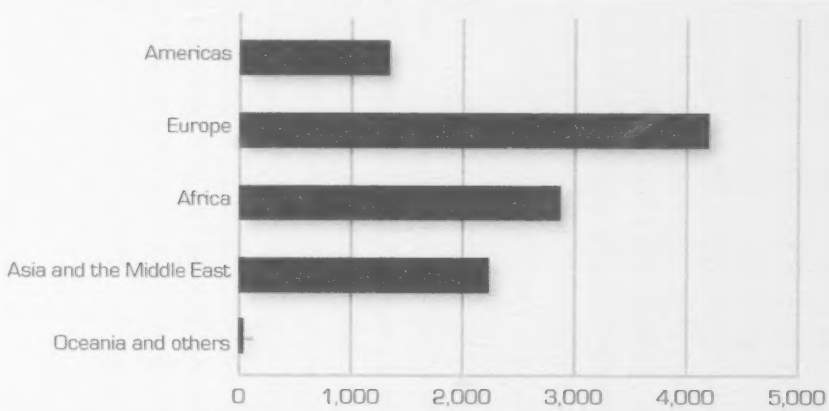
The Francophone community in Alberta includes 10,700 newcomers, representing 7.8 percent of the Francophone immigrants who live in Francophone minority communities. These newcomers bring a significant contribution to the growth of the Franco-Albertan community.

The largest group of Francophone immigrants comes from Europe, more precisely from the Western and Mediterranean areas. The French-speaking Asian community is split evenly between people from the Middle East and South-eastern Asia.

The large number of immigrants joining the Francophone community in Alberta is both a challenge and an opportunity for the community. This challenge is especially obvious in the French-language schools, where some classes count a significant proportion of children whose parents grew up outside the country.

In addition, close to 2,700 Francophones belong to one of the First Nations.

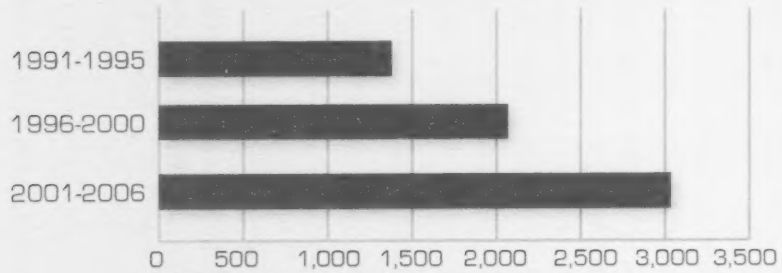
Francophone Immigrants, 2006, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Note: These are people who have been granted immigrant status in Canada, whose first known official language is French.

Francophone Immigrants by Immigration Period, Alberta



Data: Statictics Canada, 2006 Census

A recent phenomenon

A total of 48 percent of the province's Francophone immigrants arrived in the last decade. Each successive census shows a rapid increase of French-language immigration in the province.

The future of the Francophone Community

The growth of the French-speaking population rests chiefly on the influx of immigrants and interprovincial migrants. Close to 27 percent of the immigrants living in French-speaking communities are originally from an African country and many of them are active to some degree in their community or in the associative sector in general. Immigration is an important issue for the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA) which has established a strategic committee on immigration to meet demand. The largest concentrations of Francophone and bilingual immigrants are found in Edmonton and Calgary, where there are also the most settlement services and associations:

In Edmonton:

Centre Accès-emploi

Centre d'accueil et établissement

L'Association Jeunesse-Famille de l'Alberta Society

Union des Français de l'étranger (UFE)

Association de la communauté congolaise d'Edmonton

Association culturelle rwandaise de l'Alberta

Association de la communauté haïtienne

Association de la communauté burundaise

Association multiculturelle francophone de l'Alberta

In Calgary:

Centre d'accueil pour les nouveaux arrivants francophones (CANAF)

Centre d'orientation et de formation en recherche d'emploi pour les jeunes

Centre d'emploi francophone de Calgary

Connexion Carrière à Calgary

Alliance française de Calgary

Association camerounaise de Calgary

Association des Ivoiriens et Ivoiriennes de Calgary

Amicale Congo-Brazza Alberta (ACBA)

Elsewhere in the province:

Several immigrants also choose to settle in Brooks, Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie. To meet the needs, the city of Brooks has established a bilingual settlement centre, the Global Friendship Immigration Center. In Grande Prairie, there is a guide for Francophone newcomers as well as a community resource centre located at the regional ACFA. The Fort McMurray region has set up *Franco Job*, a job placement centre.

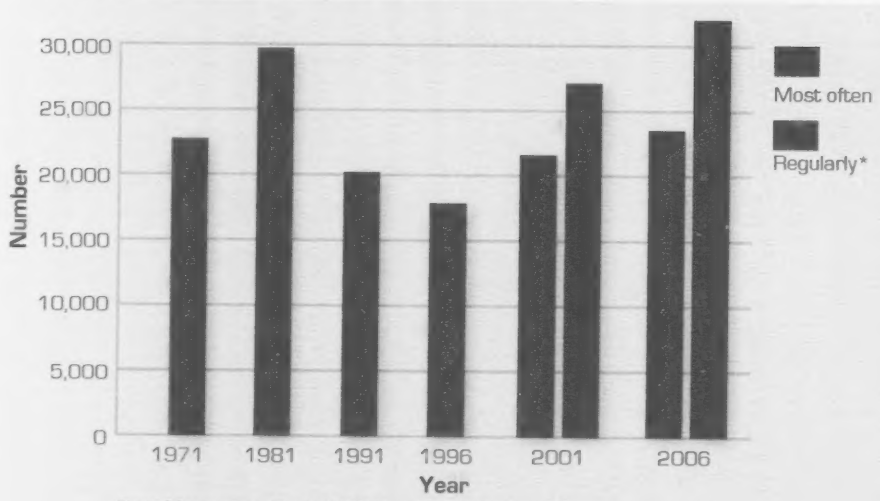
Linguistic Vitality

A sustained increase in French spoken at home...

After a decrease from 22,700 in 1971 to 17,822 in 1996, the number of people speaking French most often at home experienced a renewed increase – from 21,575 in 2001 to 23,505 in 2006.

Also, 33,180 Albertans say they use French regularly at home, even though it isn't the main language used. This is 6,000 more than in 2001. Of this number, more than 14,000 have English as their mother tongue.

French spoken at home, 1971-2006, Alberta

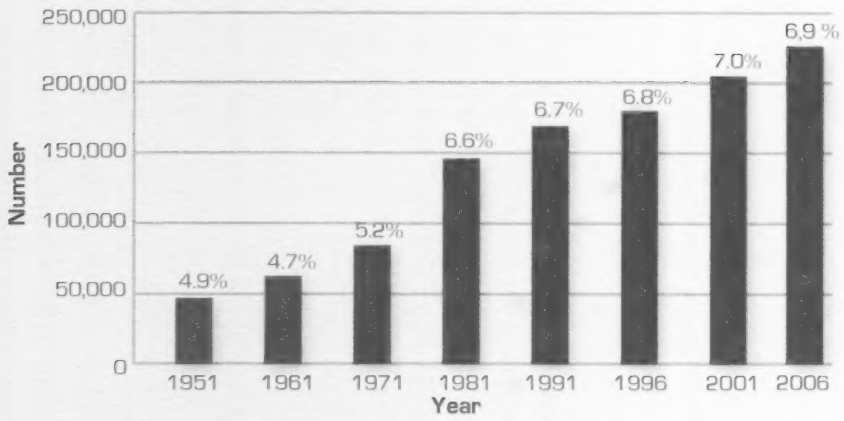


Data: Marmen and Corbeil, 2006, and Statistics Canada

*Statistics Canada started collecting data on other languages spoken regularly at home in 2001

Participants at the 2007 Calgary Maple Festival des sucres
Photo : ACFA régionale de Calgary

Knowledge of French, 1951-2006, Alberta



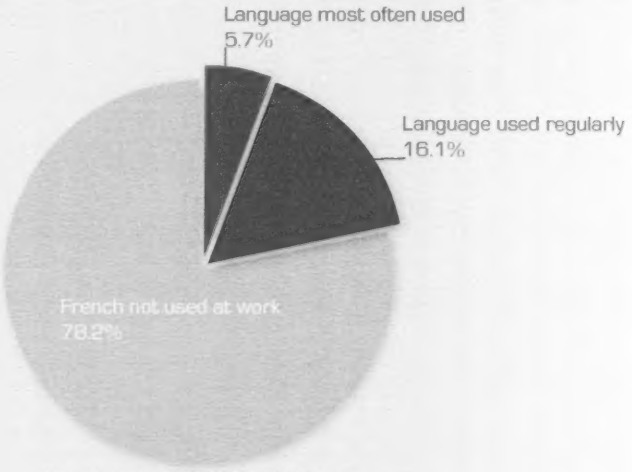
Data: Marmen and Corbeil, 2006, and Statistics Canada

... and more and more people know French

In 2006, 225,085 Albertans said they knew French, compared to 204,800 in 2001. This represents a bit under 7 percent of the population.

French is the most common language after English, before the Chinese languages (116,000 speakers) and German (104,000 speakers).

Use of French at Work, Active Population with Knowledge of French, 2006, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Modest percentages for French at work

In 2006, close to 32,500 Albertans said they used French most often or at least regularly in the workplace. Even though this number is modest – only 1.4 percent of the total active population - it still accounts for close to 22 percent of those within that active population who know the French language, and will likely increase as the growth of the community results in an increased demand for services in French.

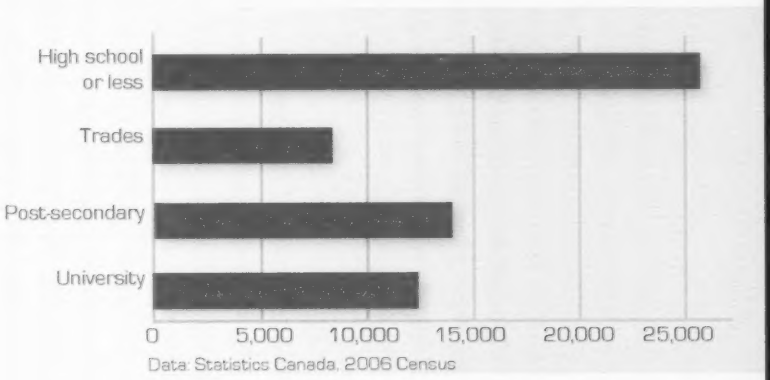
Economic Vitality

A well-educated community

Close to 12,000 Franco-Albertans, or 20 percent of the French-speaking active population, have not completed high school, a rate that is however much lower than the national average of 25.6 percent. More than 3,000 French-speaking people have graduated from a trade school.

Over 12,500 Alberta francophones have a university education, and their contribution to the development of Alberta is invaluable. At 20.5, their percentage is higher than the national average of 16 percent. Moreover, the proportion of Alberta francophones who have gone to university is slightly higher that of the total population.

Education, 2006, Francophones 15 and older, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Labour force by sector of activity, 2006, Francophones, Alberta

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1,560	3.5%
Mining and oil and gas extraction	2,980	6.6%
Utilities	325	0.7%
Construction	4,695	10.4%
Manufacturing	3,080	6.8%
Wholesale yrade	1,835	4.1%
Retail yrade	3,735	8.3%
Transportation	2,795	6.2%
Information industry	715	1.6%
Finance and insurance	1,285	2.8%
Real estate	855	1.9%
Professional services	3,045	6.7%
Management of companies	65	0.1%
Administrative services	1,610	3.6%
Education services	4,205	9.3%
Health care	3,525	7.8%
Arts	845	1.9%
Accommodation	2,460	5.4%
Other services	2,270	5.0%
Public administration	3,030	6.7%
All sectors	**44,915**	**100.0 %**

Data: Statictics Canada, 2006 Census

Franco-Albertan employment sectors

Franco-Albertans work in many different areas. They are particularly active in the primary industries, with more than 10.1 percent of the labour force employed in agriculture, mining and oil and gas production. A comparable number are active in the construction industry, which is thriving in the province.

Alberta's francophones are well represented in the public service sector, with 23.8 percent of them employed in public administration, education, health and social services.

Demand for qualified labour is significant in the construction and manufacturing sectors, as well as customer service, restaurants and hotels, transportation, engineering, public safety and health.

In Alberta today, 7,000 francophones are business owners or are self-employed, representing 14.6 percent of the French-speaking work force. A large number of them employ other people, stimulating the provincial economy.

Occupations

The economic profile of Alberta's French-speaking community would be incomplete without a look at occupations. Three areas are clearly dominant: sales and services, which employs one in five Franco-Albertans ; trades, transportation and equipment operation, with the same percentage; and finance, business and administration, which employs 16.9 percent of the francophones in the province.

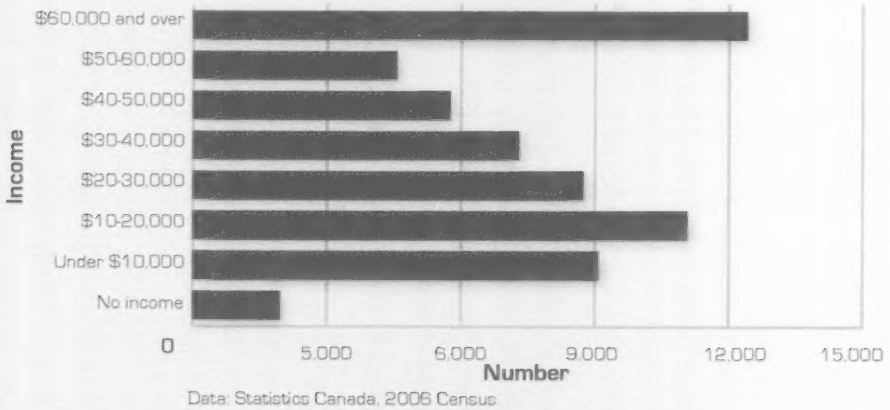
Labour force by occupation, 2006, Francophones, Alberta

Labour Force by Occupation, 2006, Francophones, Alberta

	Number	%
Management	4,340	9.7%
Finance, business and administration	7,615	16.9%
Natural and applied sciences	3,535	7.9%
Health	2,055	4.6%
Social sciences, education and government services	4,050	9.0%
Arts and culture	1,120	2.5%
Sales and services	9,135	20.3%
Trades, transportation and equipment operation	9,370	20.9%
Primary industry occupations	2,365	5.3%
Manufacturing industries occupations	1,345	3.0%
All occupations	**44,930**	**100.0%**

Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Total Individual Income, 2006, Francophones, Alberta



Data: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Income

In the last few years, francophones in Alberta have benefited as much as the rest of the population from the booming employment sector in the province. At $42,529, their average annual income is now practically identical to the provincial average and exceeds the average incomes of all other francophone communities in the country except Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Social and Community Vitality

Major organizations

The *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* (ACFA) is the principal representative organization of the Francophone community. It brings together twelve regional associations and two local circles. ACFA is dedicated to defending the rights of Francophones in all sectors of daily life, and is responsible for coordinating the advocacy and community development actions in cooperation with Alberta's Francophone organizations. Among other actions, ACFA promotes the pride and culture of the Francophone community throughout Alberta.

Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA)
303-8627 Marie-Anne Gaboury St. (91st St.)
Edmonton, AB T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 466-1680
Fax: (780) 465-6773
E-mail: acfa@acfa.ab.ca
Website: www.acfa.ab.ca

Provincial organizations

Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta
207-A – 8925 82nd Ave.
Edmonton, AB T6C 0Z2
Phone: (780) 450-2443
Fax: (780) 463-4355
E-mail: bureau@ajefa.ca
Website: www.ajefa.ca/contactez_nous.php

Association franco-albertaine de L'UniThéâtre
210-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 469-8400
Fax: (780) 440-6970
E-mail: lunitheatre@lunitheatre.ca

Association la Girandole
10-8925, 82nd Ave.
Edmonton, AB T6C 0Z2
Phone: (780) 468-0057
Fax: (780) 468-0579
E-mail: info@lagirandole.com
Website: www.lagirandole.com

La Cité francophone, a major meeting place for the community in Edmonton
Photo : ACFA

Association multiculturelle francophone de l'Alberta
8925, 82nd Avenue North West, suite 206
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 0Z2
Phone : (780) 440-0719
Fax : (780) 450-1466
Email : amfa@telus.net

Campus Saint-Jean / Université de l'Alberta
4-8406, 91st St. NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 4G9
Phone: (780) 465-8700
Toll free: 1-800-537-2509
Fax: (780) 465-0876
E-mail: saintjean@ualberta.ca
Website: www.ualberta.ca

Centre de développement musical
Phone: (780) 462-0502
Fax: (780) 450-1253
E-mail: cdma@telusplanet.net

Centre francais/University of Calgary
Craigie Hall C 302
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220-7226
Fax: (403)289-0828
E-mail: centrefr@ucalgary.ca
Website: www.ucalgary.ca/frenchcentre/

Coalition des femmes de l'Alberta
42-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 468-2288
Fax: (780) 468-2210
E-mail: femmes@coalitionfemmes.ab.ca
Website : www.coalitionfemmes.ab.ca/

Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta
Phone: (780) 414-6125
Toll free: 1-888-414-6123
Fax: (780) 414-2885
E-mail: info@lecdea.ca

Fédération des ainés franco-albertains
1088-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 465-8965
Fax: (780) 468-6535
E-mail: bureau@fafalta.ca
Website: www.fafalta.ca/

Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta
Phone: (780) 433-5452
Cell: (780) 298-4881
Fax: (403) 685-9884
E-mail: fcsfa@rogers.com

Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta
203-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 468-6934
Fax: (780) 469-4799
E-mail: info@fpfa.ab.ca

Fédération du sport francophone de l'Alberta
205-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 469-1367
Fax: (780) 435-4544
E-mail: edmonton@lafsfa.ca

Fête franco-albertaine
Phone: (780) 466-1680
Fax: (780) 465-6773
E-mail: fetefranco@acfa.ab.ca

Fondation franco-albertaine
108-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 490-7700
Fax: (780) 490-7710
E-mail: bureau@fondationfa.ca
Website: www.fondationfa.ca/coordonnes_bureau.htm

Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta
205-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 469-1344
Fax: (780) 469-0014
E-mail: fja@fja.ab.ca
Website: www.fja.ab.ca/contact/index.php

Institut Guy-Lacombe de la famille
209-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 468-6934
E-mail: info@institutguylacombe.ca
Website: www.institutguylacombe.ca/

Regroupement artistique francophone de l'Alberta
206-8627 Marie-Anne-Gaboury St.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 3N1
Phone: (780) 462-0502
Fax: (780) 450-1253
E-mail: rafa@telus.net
Website: www.rafa-alberta.ca/

Société cInéMAGINE
202-325, 6th St. South
Lethbridge, Alberta
Phone: (403) 320-7638
E-mail: cinemagine@shaw.ca
Website: www.cinemagine.net/

Société du Gala albertain de la chanson
Phone: (780) 469-4401
Fax: (780) 465-6773
E-mail: art@edmontonchante.ab.ca

Société francophone des arts visuels de l'Alberta (SAVA)
9103 95th Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 1Z4
Phone: (780) 461-3427
Fax: (780) 461-4053
E-mail: cava@shaw.ca
Website : www.savacava.com/

Young Francophones at the 10th Raje (Rassemblement-Jeunesse) organized by FJA
Photo: Mélanie Morin

Communications

Newspapers and magazines

- *Le Franco*, published weekly by ACFA, covers Francophone issues and matters of interest to the general population;
- *Le Chinook*, a privately-owned monthly in Calgary, serves the southern area of Alberta;
- *Universo* is a trilingual (English, French and Spanish) monthly produced since 2003 by a non-profit organization and distributed in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat;
- *L'annuaire des services en français*, published by *Le Franco*, lists Francophone businesses, organizations and professionnals every year since 1982.

Radio

- *The Société Radio-Canada* (French CBC) operates two stations, one in Edmonton and the other in Calgary. Both broadcast CHFA, which has been owned by Radio-Canada since 1949. The programming is divided in three sections: provincial, Western Canada and national (the latter broadcast from Montreal).
- *Espace Musique* was first established in Calgary as *La chaîne culturelle* during the winter of 2004, with another antenna opening in Edmonton on June 30 of the same year. This service then changed its name to *Espace musique* in September 2004.
- Community radio (CKRP) in the Rivière la Paix region;
- Community radio projects in St-Paul, Plamondon and Bonnyville, currently broadcasting part-time.

Television

- The *Téléjournal Alberta* is locally produced by Radio-Canada and broadcast throughout the province, as well as *Omica*, a youth program broadcast throughout the four Western provinces as well as the Yukon. During the summer, this program is broadcast nationwide.
- Satellite service allows access to several French-language channels.

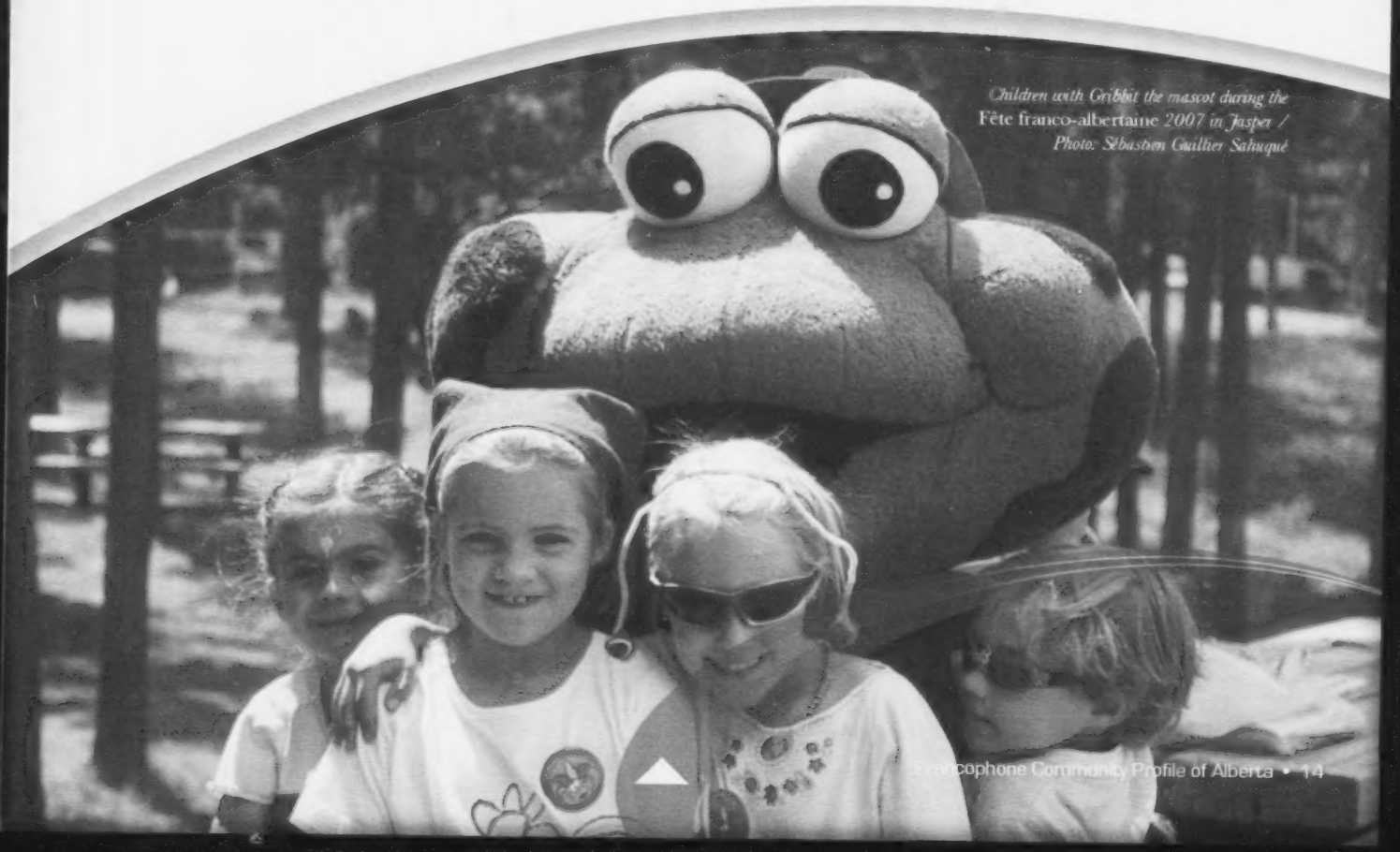
French-language show during the Calgary Maple Festival des sucres 2008
Photo: ACFA régionale de Calgary

Cultural and Community Life

- Cultural life is encouraged and supported by cultural associations and school-community centres: there are community centres in Edmonton, Bonnyville, Saint-Isidore and Falher, and school-community centres in Calgary, Saint-Paul, Plamondon, Legal andFort McMurray. There are plans for a new community centre to serve the French-speaking community in Lethbridge; construction should begin in 2009.
- Two buildings, the *Cité des Rocheuses* in Calgary and the *Cité francophone* in Edmonton, are the seats of several Francophone organizations;
- There is a professional theatre company *(L'Uni'Théâtre)* and several community groups in Plamondon, Legal, Saint-Paul, Bonnyville and Rivière la Paix. A project is under way to revitalize French theatre in Calgary with the help of a resource person.
- A number of dancing groups (folk and other styles) including *Zephyr*, which is a member of the *Association la Girandole* (Edmonton), as well as *Les Blés d'or* (Saint-Paul), *Les Plein Soleil* (Saint-Isidore) and *Les Vols-au-Vent* (Bonnyville).
- Cultural activities: *Fête franco-albertaine, Festival de théâtre jeunesse, Jeux francophones de l'Alberta*, the *Chicane albertaine, Gala albertain de la chanson, Edmonton chante, festival Cinémagine, Carnaval de Saint-Isidore, Festival des sucres à Calgary;*
- The *Regroupement artistique francophone de l'Alberta* (RAFA) had close to 100 members at the end of 2008, including 56 artists and approximately 40 organizations working in arts and culture. The art disciplines covered are dance, drama, literature, music, media arts, visual arts and distribution/production;
- ACFA supports artistic and cultural development in the Franco-Albertan community and coordinates regional activities;
- Two Franco-Albertan genealogy societies: the *Société généalogique du Nord-Ouest* and the *Société historique et généalogique de Smoky River*.
- Museums: *Musée Héritage* in Saint-Albert, *Musée de Girouxville, Musée de Plamondon, Musée de Bonnyville, Musée de Saint-Paul;*
- A tourist circuit including the village of Legal and its historic murals;
- The Provincial Archives of Alberta and the *Archives du Campus Saint-Jean* preserve the archives of Francophone organizations and individuals.
- *Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta* (FJA) is a non-profit organization established in 1972. For ten years now, FJA has organized an annual meet for Francophone youth, the *Rassemblement Jeunesse* (RaJe). The 2008 edition was attended by more than 800 youth. FJA also organizes the youth Parliament, leadership training as well as *goAGA*, an event which combines FJA's Annual General Meeting with workshops and discussion groups.

Education and Training

- French-language education in Alberta is provided by:
  - 32 schools
  - 28 preschools
  - Two daycare centres
  - Eight French-language play groups for children 0-5 years old (community facility where the children can play while parents chat, all of it in French).
- Five regional French school boards:
  - Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
  - Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest
  - Conseil scolaire du Centre-Est
  - Conseil scolaire du Sud de l'Alberta
  - Conseil scolaire catholique et francophone du sud de l'Alberta
- General bachelor programs in arts, science education and engineering science offered by the University of Alberta's Campus Saint-Jean. This institution also offers two bilingual bachelor programs (nursing and business administration, as well as masters in education and Canadian studies).
- College-level programs will be offered by the Campus Saint-Jean in Edmonton starting in the fall of 2010.
- The *Société de l'éducation de l'Alberta* (Éduk) is responsible for the literacy file at the provincial level and promotes adult learning.
- Other organizations in the education sector include the *Alliance française* de *Calgary*, the *Alliance française d'Edmonton*, the *Centre français à l'Université de Calgary*, the *Centre d'expérience préscolaire de parascolaire* (CEP), and the *Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta* (FPFA);
- Since 2005, ACFA has struck agreements with a number of French school boards to create community education coordinator positions in order to establish links between schools, the community and families. There are currently six coordinators within the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord, located in the cities of Legal, Saint-Albert, Wainwright, Red Deer, Fort McMurray and Jasper. Two more work within the Conseil scolaire catholique et francophone du sud de l'Alberta, in Cochrane et Canmore. Other agreements with the school boards are currently being developed.
- ACFA's ACCENT project aims to create links between schools that teach French and organizations that offer services in French. By listing and promoting recreational, cultural and educational activities, ACCENT endeavours to offer students enrichment through diversified experiences, while contributing to increased use of the services offered by the organizations. www.accentalberta.ca



Children with Gribbit the mascot during the Fête franco-albertaine *2007 in Jasper / Photo: Sébastien Guillier Sahuqué*

Health care and social services

- In 2006, the *Réseau santé albertain* created www.reseausantealbertain.ca, a Web resource documenting everything health-related in French in Alberta. This website provides access to the *Répertoire albertain des professionnels de la santé*, a list of health professionals able to provide care in French. This list currently holds over 1,200 names.
- An inter-professional health clinic, the *Centre de santé communautaire Saint-Thomas*, was established in the fall of 2007.
- The *Société de mieux-être du Centre-Est* (which includes volunteers from the communities of Saint-Paul, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche and Plamondon) aims to improve health services in the region. It currently has no guarantee of funding.
- There are regional committees for the promotion of health services in the Rivière la Paix region. A French-language health services coordinator works within the Peace Country regional authority. This position is funded equally by the Government of Alberta's Francophone Secretariat and the regional authority.

Laws and Government services

Federal government

Federal agencies and departments offer services in French at various locations. According to the Public Service Agency, 4.5 percent of the 9,520 federal government positions in Alberta are designated bilingual.

Provincial government

The *Languages Act* of 1988 reaffirmed unilingualism in the province; there is currently no policy or law on French in Alberta.

However, Alberta recognizes some constitutional obligations, including the right to education and school governance, as well as the right to use the official language of one's choice before provincial courts.

The Alberta government is working with the Franco-Albertan community to develop practical approaches to meet the needs of the province's Francophones.

The government created the provincial Francophone Secretariat in March 1999. Its goal is to facilitate communication between the Alberta government and the Francophone community. The secretariat operates with a budget totalling a bit over $400,000 and four employees, including an executive director who holds the same rank as an assistant deputy minister.

The Francophone Secretariat also manages the Canada-Alberta agreement on French-language services – approximately $650,000 per year in federal funds is administered by the Secretariat to support the province's priorities regarding Francophonie.

Municipalities

Beaumont, Legal and Falher are the only bilingual municipalities in Alberta. Some municipalities (Edmonton and Calgary) publish brochures in French. Several others have bilingual signs.

Legal services

- In criminal matters, the province has put in place a system of French services, in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Code (interpreters, list of bilingual lawyers, etc.) In civil matters, there is no official policy, but the *Languages Act* of 1988 named four civil courts where it is possible to have a trial in French.
- On December 9, 2003, Gilles Caron challenges the validity of a traffic ticket, as it was not in both official languages of Canada, and asks for a trial in French. He claims that his constitutional rights have been denied and asks the court to declare Alberta's *Languages Act* null and void. On July 2, 2008, the Provincial Court of Alberta recognizes that respect of the linguistic rights of Francophones was a condition for entry of the Northwest Territories (which then included Alberta) into Confederation. Mr. Caron is declared not guilty. A month later, the province appealed this decision; the appeal was heard on January 19 and 27, 2009. A decision is pending.

The Last 30 Years

L'empreinte francophone, *a monument unveiled in 2007*

1978 Tabling of the Policy on Minority Language Instruction;

1982 Adoption of the Franco-Albertan flag, designed by Jean-Pierre Grenier;

1987 The speaker of the Legislative Assembly asks the member Léo Piquette to apologize because he spoke French during Question Period. Léo Piquette refuses. On December 1, more than 400 people protest in front of the Alberta legislature to show their support for Léo Piquette, who ultimately wins the right to speak French in the legislature if he first distributes an English copy of his remarks.

1988 Adoption of Bill 60, abolishing the linguistic rights conferred by article 110 of the *Northwest Territories Act*. Alberta officially becomes a unilingual English province.

1990 The Supreme Court of Canada recognizes the right to school governance in the Mahé judgement. This case had been before the courts since 1983.

1993 The Alberta government adopts Bill 8, and recognizes the right of Francophones to governance of their 21 schools. Some of those schools were established as early as 1984, namely the *école Maurice-Lavallée* in Edmonton and the *école Sainte-Anne* in Calgary, which later became *école Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys*.

1999 Creation of Alberta's provincial Francophone Secretariat on March 16.

2005 After 40 years withouth Francophone representation in the Senate, Alberta celebrates the appointment of a Franco-Albertan senator, the Honourable Claudette Tardif.

2007 *L'empreinte francophone*, a monument erected on the grounds of the provincial legislature in honour of Alberta's Francophones, is unveiled on June 28. The monument was created by artist Herman Poulin and contains the imprints of 1,166 Francophones, collected in 12 regions of the province.

2008 On July 2, the Provincial Court renders a decision in favour of Gilles Caron, who had challenged the validity of a traffic ticket written in English only. The Court rules that respect of the linguistic rights of Francophones was a condition for entry of the Northwest Territories (which then included Alberta) into Confederation. The province decides to appeal this decision.

Sources

For the first and second editions of this document, published respectively in 2000 and 2004, the brief historical notes on the Francophone and Acadian communities of Canada are mostly taken from historical recollections on the Francophone experience in the provinces and territories compiled by the National Committee for Canadian Francophonie Human Resources Development. Philippe Falardeau's review, entitled *Hier la francophonie* and published by FCFA as part of its *Dessein 2000* project, and Yves Frenette's *La brève histoire des Canadiens français* published by Éditions Boréal, were also sources of inspiration. Finally, several texts compiled by Joseph Yvon Thériault in *Francophonies minoritaires au Canada – L'état des lieux*, published by Éditions de l'Acadie, were also useful, as was the study by René Guindon and Pierre Poulin, entitled *Les liens dans la francophonie canadienne*.

For the third edition, the texts featured in the sections on history and geography were updated by FCFA and its members to take into account significant developments in the past few years and new data from the 2006 census.

All of the statistics used in the preparation of this national profile are those of Statistics Canada. The following sources were used:

1. The national, provincial and territorial data on mother tongue, first official language spoken, language spoken at home, knowledge of French, use of French at work, median age, labour force by sector of activity and by occupation, as well as income, were provided to FCFA in preformatted tables by the statistical research team at the Official Languages Support Program (Department of Canadian Heritage).

2. All regional data on the first official language spoken and the age distribution of francophones were compiled using the table *First Official Language Spoken (7), Mother Tongue (10), Age Groups (17A) and Sex (3) for the Population*, Cat. No. 97-555-X2006030 at Statistics Canada.

3. Data on the number of Albertans with English as a mother tongue speaking French regularly at home were compiled using the table *Detailed Language Spoken Most Often at Home (186), Other Language Spoken Regularly at Home (9), Mother Tongue (8), Age Groups (17A) and Sex (3) for the Population*, Cat. No. 97-555-X2006045 at Statistics Canada.

4. Data on French-speaking immigrants by period of immigration, on the place of birth of francophones and on the place of origin of French-speaking newcomers were compiled using the table Selected *Demographic, Cultural, Educational, Labour Force and Income Characteristics (780), First Official Language Spoken (4), Age Groups (8A) and Sex (3) for Population*, Cat. No. 97-555-X2006054 at Statistics Canada.

5. Data on the evolution of Alberta's linguistic composition from 1951 to 2001 (mother tongue, language spoken at home, first official language spoken, etc.) were taken from *New Canadian Perspectives: Languages in Canada, 2001* Census, by Louise Marmen and Jean-Pierre Corbeil.

It should be noted that when calculating data on mother tongue, language spoken at home or first official language spoken, whether one includes multiple answers (for example, francophones who have also indicated English as their mother tongue) can account for a variation in numbers. Marmen and Corbeil apportion multiple answers among the declared languages. However, the data presented by FCFA for 2006 include everyone with French as mother tongue/first official language spoken/language spoken at home, even if other languages are mentioned.

Information on community life, on structures that exist to facilitate francophone immigration and on economic vitality were compiled by FCFA with the help of *l'Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* (ACFA) and its members.